

KWF Grid Connection EIA Report 2023

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Volume C2: EIA 2023 Main Report

Chapter 1: Introduction

EIA Coordinator:



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Figures and mapping referenced in this topic chapter can be found at the end of the chapter.

No Appendices for Chapter 1

Glossary of General Terms

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
KWF Grid Connection (the subject development)	Underground cabling, additional plant and apparatus in the existing Woodhouse Substation, the construction a new link road, the widening of an existing forestry road and the use of the existing entrance and windfarm road network at Woodhouse Windfarm.
Authorised Knocknamona Windfarm	Not Constructed - Knocknamona Windfarm authorised in 2016 (ABP-PL 93.244006); Amendments to Knocknamona Windfarm to provide for larger turbines authorised in September 2022 (ABP-309412-21) and Junction & Bend Widening Works to facilitate turbine component access through the windfarm site entrance at Knocknaglogh Lower authorised in December 2022 (ABP-314219-22)
Whole Project	KWF Grid Connection with Authorised Knocknamona Windfarm
Operational Woodhouse Substation	Woodhouse Substation at Keereen Upper is an operational electrical substation including electrical plant and control building, forming part of the national electricity system.
Operational Woodhouse Windfarm	Woodhouse Windfarm is an operational windfarm, located adjacent and connected to Woodhouse Substation. Woodhouse Windfarm comprises 8 wind turbines, 1 meteorological mast and ancillary site works.

List of Abbreviations

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Full Term</u>
ABP	An Bord Pleanála
EIA Directive	EU Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by competent experts and submitted as part of the planning application
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment by the planning authority of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, governed by the terms of the EIA Directive

1. Introduction to KWF Grid Connection

1.1 The KWF Grid Connection Proposal

KWF Grid Connection is proposed for a location 8km west of Dungarvan, County Waterford and just east of the existing operational ESB Woodhouse Substation and Woodhouse Windfarm. The development is the grid connection element required to connect the authorised but not yet constructed Knocknamona Windfarm to the National Grid.

The KWF Grid Connection proposal comprises 1940m of underground cabling, additional electrical plant and apparatus in the operational Woodhouse Substation; the use of the existing main entrance and windfarm road network at Woodhouse Windfarm; the construction of a new 190m long Link Road joining the Woodhouse Windfarm road network to the Knocknamona Windfarm road network and widening of c.960m of existing forestry road to facilitate deliveries of turbine components to Knocknamona Windfarm.

1.2 Statement on the previous KWF Grid Connection (2019) application

The Subject Application is the 2nd planning application for grid connection works for Knocknamona Windfarm.

The previous KWF Grid Connection application was made in 2019 and was authorised firstly by Waterford City & County Council (WCCC File Ref. 19/369) on 18 December 2019 and subsequently on appeal by An Bord Pleanála (ABP Ref. 306497-20) on 18 February 2021. This decision was challenged through Judicial Review to the High Court by 3rd Parties who are opposed to the proposed development (proceedings titled Reynolds & Ors v An Bord Pleanála High Court Record Number 2021 302 JR). Finally, in December 2022 and prior to the High Court hearing on the matter, the Board decided not to oppose the challenge to their decision because they accepted that the Board meeting held on 22 April 2020, at which the Board decided whether an oral hearing should be held, did not have the requisite quorum. The Board therefore decided that its Decision of 18 February 2021 granting KWF Grid Connection ought to be quashed on that basis. Subsequently, a Final Order quashing the Board's Grant of Permission for the KWF Grid Connection application of 2019, was made by the High Court and perfected on 28th February 2023.

Therefore, as a consequence Knocknamona Windfarm Limited must now apply for the KWF Grid Connection anew. The proposed development KWF Grid Connection (2023) is the same as that proposed in 2019. A new EIA Report has been prepared in order to account for the passage of time in relation to legislation, guidelines, conditions on site and in the surrounding area and any other Environmental Impact Assessment related matters that ought to be considered under the EIA Directive at this point.

1.3 Location of KWF Grid Connection

Underground electrical cabling is proposed for forested uplands in Knocknamona and Keereen Upper townlands, 8km west of Dungarvan, County Waterford in the Drum Hills area. The cables will be routed through lands comprising; felled forestry, forestry road; scrub; farm track; Woodhouse Windfarm roads; Public Road crossing via directional drill; and grassland and will finish at the cable chair located in the existing

Woodhouse Substation compound. The underground cabling will join the authorised Knocknamona Windfarm Substation to the National Grid at Woodhouse Substation.

Works within Woodhouse Substation compound: Woodhouse Substation is in Keereen Upper townland.

Link Road: is proposed for Knocknamona townland.

Existing Forestry Road Widening: is proposed for Knocknamona townland.

Access through Woodhouse Windfarm Main Entrance: Woodhouse/Tinakilly townland.

Relevant Figure (at the end of the chapter)

Figure 1.1: Location of KWF Grid Connection

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1.4 Whole Knocknamona Windfarm Project

The KWF Grid Connection is part of a whole project which also includes;

Authorised Knocknamona Windfarm:

- a) Knocknamona Windfarm comprises 8 No. wind turbines, overall height of up to 126.6m, meteorological mast, access roads, electrical substation and ancillary works at Knocknaglogh Lower/ Barranastook Upper/ Knocknamona/ Woodhouse or Tinakilly/ Monageela/ Killatoor, Dungarvan, County Waterford. Knocknamona Windfarm was granted planning permission on 14th December 2016. Waterford County Council Planning Ref. 14/600109. Authorised under an Bord Pleanála Ref. PL93.244006: The duration of planning is for 10 years. Knocknamona Windfarm is not yet constructed.
- b) In 2020 a Planning Application was submitted to Waterford City & County Council to change the maximum tip height of the authorised turbines at Knocknamona Windfarm from a tip height of 126m to and overall maximum tip height of 155m and to change the height of the authorised meteorological mast from 80m to 99m and the design of the mast from tubular tower to lattice tower. (WCCC Ref. 20/845). The larger turbines were authorised in September 2022 by An Bord Pleanála Ref. 309412-21. The duration of planning is for 10 years.
- c) In 2022 a planning application was submitted to Waterford City & County Council for works at four Junction/Bend locations on the Local Roads between Pulla Crossroads on the N25, to Knocknamona Windfarm site entrance c.7km east, at Knocknaglogh Lower on the L6077. (WCCC Ref. 22/407) Authorised on 7th December 2022 by An Bord Pleanála Ref. No. 314219-22.

These 3 No. elements a, b and c, together comprise Authorised Knocknamona Windfarm.

Whole Knocknamona Windfarm Project

The Whole Knocknamona Windfarm Project comprises the subject development KWF Grid Connection and Authorised Knocknamona Windfarm.

Relevant Figure (at the end of the chapter)

Figure 1.2: Location of KWF Grid Connection in relation to Authorised Knocknamona Windfarm, existing Woodhouse Windfarm and existing Woodhouse Substation

1.5 Application to Waterford City & County Council

This application for KWF Grid Connection is being made to Waterford City & County Council. This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report or EIAR) has been prepared to accompany the subject planning application.

1.6 Structure of the Planning Application

This planning application comprises a suite of application documents presented in separate volumes. Table below, summarises the contents of these volumes so that it is clear, to the reader, where information can be found.

Table 1-1: Documents accompanying the planning application

Volume A	Planning Application Documents – Application Form; Site/Newspaper Notice; Letters of Landowner Consent; Schedule of Submitted Documents etc.	
Volume B	Schedule of Planning Drawings	
Volume C	EIA Report 2023 (EIAR) for KWF Grid Connection Application	Volume C1: EIAR 2023 Non-Technical Summary Volume C2: EIAR 2023 Main Report including Figures and Appendices
Volume D	Environmental Management Plan for KWF Grid Connection 2023 (EMP)	
Volume E	Appropriate Assessment Reporting 2023 for KWF Grid Connection Application	
Volume F	Reference Documents for KWF Grid Connection Application 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knocknamona Windfarm Revised EIS 2015 • Amendment to Knocknamona Windfarm (Larger Turbines & Met Mast) Revised EIAR 2021 • Junction & Bend Widening Works Screening for EIA 2022. 	

Figure 1.1 - Location of KWF Grid Connection

- Legend:
- KWF Grid Connection
 - KWF Grid Connection Construction Works Area
 - - - Access Road through Woodhouse Windfarm Entrance

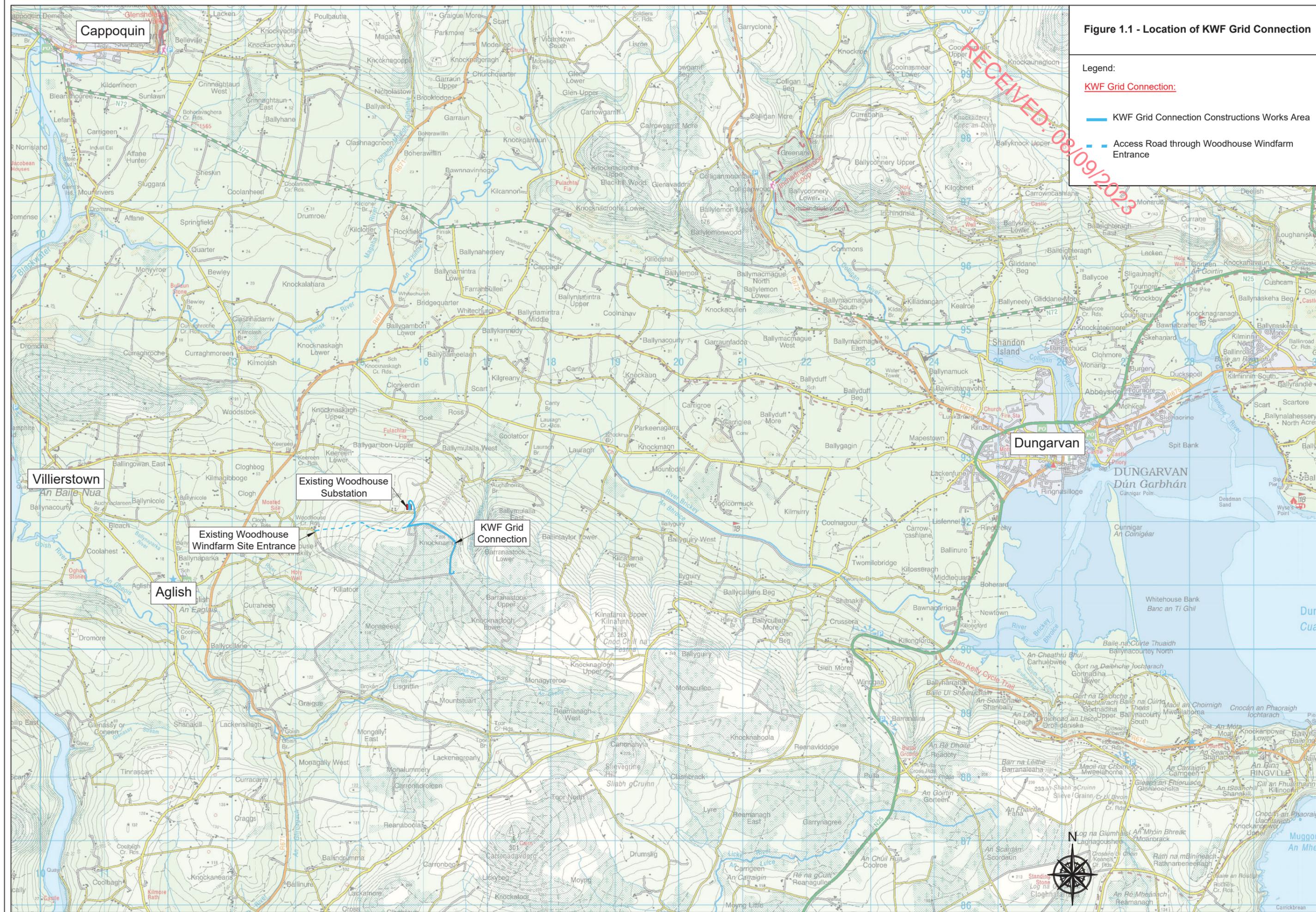


Figure 1.2 - Location of KWF Grid Connection in relation to Authorised Knocknamona Windfarm, existing Woodhouse Windfarm and existing Woodhouse Substation

Legend:

- KWF Grid Connection:**
 - KWF Grid Connection Construction Works Area
 - Access Road through Woodhouse Windfarm Entrance
- Authorised Knocknamona Windfarm and amendments
- Existing Woodhouse Windfarm
- Existing Woodhouse Substation

